

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /052 W

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P R 181105Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7795

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IZ, NL

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF DUTCH-BORN JEW

REF: STATE 63443

1. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST.

2. ON MARCH 15 IRAQI CHARGE INFORMED DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OF EXECUTION THREE MONTHS AGO IN BAGHDAD OF LEON AARONSON, 40-YEAR-OLD DUTCH-BORN JEW. DUTCH GOVERNMENT RECALLED CHARGE FROM BAGHDAD FOR CONSULTATIONS AND SUMMONED IRAQI CHARGE MARCH 16 TO PROTEST EXECUTION, ASSERTING AARONSON WAS DUTCHMAN.

3. AARONSON, WHO ALLEGEDLY WORKED AS NURSE IN IRAQ KURDISTAN, WAS ARRESTED MARCH 1975 BY IRAQI SECURITY FORCES. REGARDED BY IRAQ AS AN ISRAELI, AARONSON WAS CONVICTED IN OCTOBER 1975 OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. REPORTS OF HIS EXECUTION WERE DENIED IN NOVEMBER BY IRAQI AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER FOR EXPLANATION. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, GOI HAS BEEN EVASIVE REGARDING AARONSON SINCE THEN.

4. DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED INDIGNATION OVER IRAQ'S HANDLING OF AFFAIR AS HAS PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL. SPEAKING AT FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON MARCH 17, PRIME MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID AARONSON HAD BEEN EXECUTED "CONTRARY TO MOST ELEMENTARY

HUMAN RIGHTS, WITHOUT TRIAL," AND THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES "NEVER TOLD THE TRUTH" TO DUTCH CHARGE. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WILL REPLY TO NUMEROUS PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT TODAY. DUTCH NEWSPAPERS DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO STORY, HEAVILY CRITICIZING CONDUCT OF IRAQI AUTHORITIES FOR EXECUTING AARONSON WITHOUT PROPER TRIAL, THE INHUMAN MANNER OF BELATEDLY INFORMING HIS RELATIVES BY TELEPHONE, AND FOR MISLEADING DUTCH GOVERNMENT DURING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AS TO HIS FATE.

5. DUTCH, READY TO VOICE INDIGNATION ABOUT HUMAN INJUSTICE AT LEAST PROVOCATION, HAVE REACTED VIGOROUSLY. WHILE THERE SEEMED BE QUESTION OF AARONSON'S NATIONALITY, GON CONSIDERED HIM TO BE DUTCH, AND HE IS BEING DEPICTED AS INNOCENT VICTIM OF IRAQI ANTI-SEMITISM.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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